

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 04404 041212Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 SAM-01 /063 W

----- 067136

O R 041145Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3637

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4404

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL CRISIS: STILL NO GOVERNMENT

REF: (A) FBIS LONDON 2160457, (B) LISBON 4389

1. STILL NO CABINET: ON HIS FRIDAY, AUGUST 1 DEPARTURE FOR CSCE, PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES SAID THAT A NEW GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN FORMED. AS OF 11:00 AM MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 25 DAYS SINCE THE SOCIALISTS LEFT THE GOVERNMENT, A NEW CABINET HAS NOT BEEN FORMED. THE PRIME MINISTER FELT OBLIGED AUGUST 2 TO ANNOUNCE THAT DESPITE THE LACK OF A NEW CABINET, THE ADMINISTRATION WAS ABLE TO FUNCTION NORMALLY. HOWEVER, ON AUGUST 4, THE COMMUNIST-SYMPATHIZING LISBON RADIO STATIONS (REF A) SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE FAILURE TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT AND SAID IT WAS CREATING PROBLEMS FOR THE NATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 04404 041212Z

2. OTELO REFUSES TO SUBORDINATE HIMSELF TO THE PM:

MEANWHILE, AS THE PM ATTEMPTS TO PUT TOGETHER A GOVERNMENT, GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO IS OBJECTING TO TAKING THE JOB OF VICE PRIME MINISTER. EVEN THE LISBON PRESS, VERY RETICENT ABOUT REPORTING THE INNER STRUGGLES OF THE GOVERNMENT, NOTED OTELO'S RELUCTANCE.

3. COMMENT: ALL THIS TAKES PLACE IN A CONTEXT OF CONTINUING ANTI-COMMUNIST VIOLENCE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE (SEPTTEL), A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN THE COMMANDO REGIMENT (REF B), AND DAY AND NIGHT MEETINGS OF THE DIRECTORATE AND BETWEEN THE PM AND MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES. THE PRIME MINISTER'S FAILURE TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT IS NOT SURPRISING GIVEN THE WIDESPREAD EXPECTATION THAT ANY GOVERNMENT HE SUCCEEDS IN PUTTING TOGETHER WILL BE SHORT-LIVED. THE AFM MODERATS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) ARE NOW PLAYING OUT THEIR SECOND SCENARIO FOR OUSTING THE PM. AFTER FAILING IN A DIRECT ATTEMPT TO OUST THE PM IN THE RC, THEY HOPE TO MOVE IN WHEN GONCALVES PROVES UNABLE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT.

4. PCP ACTIVITIES: INTERESTINGLY, THE PCP HAS STOPPED ITS NOISY PUBLIC CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT THE PM'S OUSTER. PCP LEADER CUNHAL WARNED AUGUST 3 OF THE DANGERS OF A PROLONGED CABINET CRISIS AND SUGGESTED THAT A REACTIONARY OFFENSIVE MAY BE UNDERWAY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE PCP IS TRYING TO CREATE A PHONY RIGHT WING THREAT WHICH WOULD ENABLE THEM TO FORCE ANOTHER LURCH TO THE LEFT. THE PCP MAY ALSO BE HOPING TO HIGHLIGHT THE PRESENT CRISIS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ENCOURAGE A PREMATURE COUP ATTEMPT BY DISORGANIZED CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OPPOSITION ELEMENTS.

4. OTELO: FURTHER DELAYING THE FORMATION OF A CABINET IS OTELO'S PERSONAL AMBITION AND HIS REFUSAL TO SUBORDINATE HIMSELF TO THE PM. OTELO HIMSELF HAS A PROBLEM. HIS ACTION IN REMOVING THE CO OF THE COMMANDO REGIMENT, ONE OF THE KEY UNITS UNDER HIS OVERALL COMMAND, WILL BE CHALLENGED TODAY IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMANDOS, AT WHICH OTELO AND THE FIRED CO WILL BOTH BE PRESENT. WITH A CRISIS OF AUTHORITY IN AN ELITE ARMY UNIT AND RAMBLINGS OF DISCONTENT THROUGHOUT THE ARMY, OTELO'S DRIVE FOR POWER COULD BE HAMPERED BY PROBLEMS IN HIS COPCON BACKYARD. CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COALITION GOVERNMENT, CABINET, POLITICAL STABILITY, GOVERNMENT REFORM, SOCIALISTS, COMMUNISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LISBON04404  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750268-0461  
**From:** LISBON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750885/aaaacxjz.tel  
**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 LISBON 4389  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POLITICAL CRISIS: STILL NO GOVERNMENT  
**TAGS:** PINT, PO, (COSTA GOMEZ)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006